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Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 9:04 AM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: MLPA COMMENTS / SUPPORT OF PACKAGE 2

I am writing this note to address the final MLPA resolution.

It is obvious that there are various interest groups and individuals with varying agendas and concerns ranging between economic self-interest, long-term conservation, and sustainability. This is an important and historic crossroad.

There has been a well documented decline of populations and species of marine life. There has been an alarm locally, particularly relating to slow propagating and territorial ground fish where the DFG has enforced a moratorium on the take of all deep-water rockfish.

My friends in the diving community may differ with me on small points and details, but from my perspective, habitat and a safe and nurturing environment best support the ongoing future of our marine resources. Clean water and the opportunity to breed, grow and mature are essential elements to the MLPA resolution that transcend personal or short term economic interests.

Where people may easily fish or dive are less important than recognizing, maintaining, and protecting the complex reef systems that feed the entire region.

Therefore, I would simply like to state my support for proposal # 2 and the final inclusion of the areas outlined therein.

Again, my experience as a local deep diver has shown that the areas around the Carmel Pinnacles, Pt. Lobos, Yankee Point, and the offshore areas of Pt. Sur are rich, diverse habitats beyond compare.

The protection of these grounds is essential for the future of the entire Central Coast.

Kenneth Gwin
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